

“Clothed In White”  
Sardis Part 3  
(Rev 3:4-6)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

# Exposit 3:4



4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

✧ “you have a few (oligos) people” oligos is the same word used in the Narrow and Wide Gates Olivet Discourse:

Matthew 7:13-14

13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are **few (oligos)** who find it.

✧ Among the church in Sardis, only a “few people” were saved, the rest are dead

✧ Confirming point earlier, that one cannot be called dead and be saved (that’s a contradiction)

✧ “have not soiled their garments” [more on this]

✧ “they will walk with me in white” [more on this]

# “have not soiled their garments”



- ❧ “have not” is in the negative particle meaning it hasn’t happened
- ❧ They haven’t up to this point “soiled their garments”
- ❧ “soiled” is molunō which means to stain or defile
- ❧ Depending on context it can speak of defilement of conscience or with women
- ❧ An example of conscience:
  - 1 Corinthians 8:7
  - 7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.
  - ❧ One can defile one’s conscience by participating in eating food sacrificed to an idol
- ❧ The only other time molunō is used is later in this book to speak of w/women...

# “have not soiled their garments”



Revelation 14:4-5 (speaking of the 144K Sealed Jews)

4 These are the ones who have not been defiled (**molunō**) with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

- ✧ Here the 144K sealed Jews did not defile themselves with women
- ✧ In other words, they were not engaged in sexual immorality and did not engage in sex with the temple prostitutes
  
- ✧ So which one is the correct view for the few in Sardis?
- ✧ Did those few in Sardis not defile their conscience or their body?
- ✧ CLUE it's in the verse

# “have not soiled their garments”



- ❧ “garments” tells us it was not their conscience, but their clothing!
- ❧ “garments” is himation and refers to an article of clothing (cloak, coat, dress, garment, robe, etc) 100% of the time
- ❧ Remember ROE #7: Thou shalt not over spiritualize the text
- ❧ Garments is something they wore
- ❧ Deduction: There were a few in Sardis who did not engage in sexual immorality, temple prostitutes and defiled their clothing (i.e. did not get bodily fluids on them or their clothing)!
- ❧ Because of their faithfulness, Jesus promises...

# “they will walk with Me in white”



- ✧ This is one of many promises in these 7 letters
- ✧ They = the few in Sardis who did not engage in sexual immorality
- ✧ “will walk” is speaking of a manner of conduct
- ✧ To walk with Jesus is to walk with the One who is holy, righteous and pure
- ✧ To walk with Jesus is to walk as He walks: in a holy, righteous and pure manner
- ✧ To walk with Jesus is a BLESSING and SALVATION!
- ✧ UNIVERSAL TRUTH: to those who resist gratifying the lusts of the flesh will be rewarded to walk along with the glorified Jesus IN WHITE!
- ✧ IN WHITE: not to get too deep into it, but in this book there were: white garments, a white horse, white robes, a white cloud, white linen, and last but not least, a Great White Throne. White in short is speaking of purity and righteousness
- ✧ In context, it is referring to white garments as is said in v.5...

# Exposit 3:5



5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- ❧ Consistent theme in all 7 letters is the assessment and ending with a promise
- ❧ When we get to the promises, it applies to both the immediate audience (the few in Sardis) and universal
- ❧ How do we know that? Because it says “He who overcomes”
- ❧ John said it himself:
  - 1 John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
  - ❧ “he who believes” are all believers of all time!
- ❧ So in verse 5 and in all 7 letters, any promise mentioned is not limited to just the immediate audience, but applies to all believers for all time!

# Exposit 3:5



## APPLICATION

- ☞ All believers who resisted indulging the sinful lusts and passions of the flesh will walk with Jesus and be clothed in white!
  - ☞ Well what about believers who have done this or are doing these sinful acts?
  - ☞ Well don't listen to me, listen to JESUS. HE COMMANDS YOU TO STOP! OR ELSE!
- ☞ Let's continue in v. 5...



# Exposit 3:5



5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- ✧ Not only will believers be clothed in white garments, but Jesus promises “I will not erase His name (onoma) from the book of life”
- ✧ TRUTH: Believers are eternally saved because Jesus won't erase his name from the book of life!
- ✧ Some might struggle with v.5 that seems to imply that Jesus can erase your name, meaning one can lose his/her salvation

# Exposit 3:5



- ❧ First of all I understand that struggle
- ❧ I've wrestled with that even during this study
- ❧ But not to make a complete defense of the numerous Scriptures that affirm eternal security, I do want to say just because the Scripture says one thing, it doesn't mean the opposite is always true
- ❧ For example, the Scriptures teach that believers are elected and chosen by God before the foundation of the world
- ❧ So someone might deduce that if God chose certain people to be saved, that must mean He also chose people to go to hell (double predestination)
  - ❧ We know this is not the case; believers believe because of God's grace and unbelievers don't believe because they resist and reject God's grace
  - ❧ When an unbeliever dies in his sins, it's because of his unbelief – not God's fault

# Exposit 3:5



- ✧ That holds true for us in v. 5
- ✧ Just because Jesus promised that He will not erase a believer's name from the book of life; does not mean that He will erase elect believers from the book of life
- ✧ Just like the election example, the former is true, but the latter is not
- ✧ Let's look at the last part of v. 5...

# Exposit 3:5



5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- ✧ Not only will believers walk with Jesus clothed in white garments, not only will believers not have their names erased from the book of life, but Jesus will also “confess his name before My Father and before His angels”.
- ✧ There is nothing better than for someone of importance to acknowledge and accept you
- ✧ What greater honor is there than for the Lord Jesus Christ to not only confess and accept you before His Father and before the holy angels, but will also grant believers permission to eat from the tree of life (which is in the Paradise of God), be given the crown of life, be given some of the hidden manna, a white stone with a new name written on it, and last but not least, the morning star with authority to rule and reign with Him on earth!

# Exposit 3:6



6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

❧ Not a fancy catch phrase

❧ It's a call to repent and obey OR ELSE

❧ "the Spirit" is the Holy Spirit

❧ The Holy Spirit is saying these admonitions to the churches, and I want to suggest to you, the angels over them as well

❧ 5 down; 2 to go; up next: Philadelphia